

# **VAAP Signs Consent Pact, Will Reduce Its Pollution**

*711-19:76 p.i*  
A consent agreement between Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant and local, state and federal air pollution officials, has been signed which calls for an expenditure of \$1.6 million to reduce air pollution at the plant.

The agreement, in negotiations for more than a year, calls for a phased air pollution reduction program to be completed by Feb. 1, 1979.

VAAP has agreed to install a sulfuric acid regeneration facility by Dec. 1, 1977, to reduce the plant's current sulfuric acid mist problem; install a contaminated waste incinerator by July 1, 1978; and install an explosive waste incinerator and initiate its use by Feb. 1, 1979.

The incinerators are priced at about \$500,000 each and the sulfuric acid unit will cost approximately \$600,000.

In the agreement, VAAP admits it is operating in violation of local, state and federal air pollution laws. Since the courts have ruled that VAAP is outside the jurisdiction of local and state air pollution control authorities, the TNT manufacturing plant entered into the consent agreement voluntarily.

Discussing the work to be done, Capt. B. B. Boaldin, commanding officer at VAAP, said, "We use a great deal of sulfuric acid to draw off excessive water generated during TNT production. And our problem is that there is an acid mist which hasn't yet been reduced enough to meet current standards."

Industrial wastes will continue to be burned, Capt. Boaldin said, but added that the incinerators would funnel the particulate matter back into the fire where it would be more completely consumed.

"The discharge would be practically invisible," he said. "Now it's a big, black cloud."

The agreement also provides for quarterly progress reports from VAAP as well as immediate programs of interim controls, ambient air monitoring and development of in-stack emissions monitoring systems and emergency reduction of emissions during unfavorable meteorological conditions.

Herb Parr, director of the Chattanooga Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau, described the document as "a gentlemen's agreement," which in itself is not legally enforceable.

VAAP is operated by ICI United States, a subsidiary of ICI Limited, London, for the U.S. Army and is the country's last operating TNT plant for military purposes.